Creation of fund for National Highway Development Project

4685. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government intend to introduce the Cess Act for creating a dedicated fund to finance the National Highway Development Project,

(b) whether Re. 1 cess on petrol and diesel which accrue from this plan will be transferred to the Central Road Fund for the construction of this project; and

(c) if so, what is the total cost of this project and the source of funding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, out of the total cess levied on High Speed Diesel and Petrol 50% of the cess levied on High Speed Diesel will be transferred to Ministry of Rural Development for developing rural roads. Out of the balance amount 57.5% would be utilised for development and maintenance of National Highways, 12.5% allocated to Ministry of Railways for railway over-bridge and railway safety work at unmanned railway crossings and 30% allocated for State sector roads.

(c) The total estimated cost for National Highway Development Project is Rs. 54,000 crore. This will be funded from general budgetary support, external assistance, market borrowings, private sector participation and the Central Road Fund.

Allocation of funds for NHs in North-Eastern Region

4686. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount earmarked by the Central Government for construction, widening, maintenance and repair of various National Highways in the country particularly in the States